

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPACE SCIENCE BOARD

February 13, 1961

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

This letter is intended to remind both of us to follow through on a few side items that were discussed during the SSB meetings.

1. Space Biology Session at COSPAR

I will get in touch with Charles Philips and see if he can go to COSPAR to discuss the decontamination problem. If Hugh's visit to van de Hulst is successful in removing the exclusion from the space biology session, I will also contact Dick Young at NASA and Captain Mitchell at Randolph. I am also asking Hugh to inquire of van de Hulst whether or not he knows what Russians will be coming to COSPAR, including Jerusalemski. I believe that you also wanted to write him directly as another means of urging him to come to COSPAR.

2. Possibility of your visit to USSR being extended under the Bronk-Nesmeyanov Agreement

I will send a note to Dr. Robertson and Dr. Doty proposing that arrangements be made under the Bronk-Nesmeyanov agreement for a visit of several weeks following the biochemistry meeting. For this purpose I will need some brief phrase acceptable to you which describes the basic subject matter or subject matters which will be forwarded to the Russians as your principal interest during this visit. If you would prefer, you yourself can write directly to either Bronk, Robertson or Doty on this matter. I assume that indicating that your principal interest is exclusively exobiology would not be the best course of action and, at the same time, "genetics" may also involve some problems. Maybe some phrase like biochemical genetics and exobiology or cosmic microbiology would be more opportune. Please let me know what you suggest.

3. Circulating Translation of Article by N. Zhukov-Verezhnikov, et al

This is to remind you that you offered to review the translation once more to look for any scientific phrases that translated into clumsy English. We will hold off typing a stencil on this until we receive your comments.

4. "Man on the Moon" Recommendation

George has asked me to remind you that you were to send him a note on the qualifications you would like to see incorporated in the Board's statement on the "Man on the Moon" recommendation.

Sincerely yours,


Joel Orlen

cc: Dr. Richard W. Porter